

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

**1. Name**

historic Laclede Gas and Light Company Building, Old

and/or common Laclede Gas Company Building, Old

**2. Location**

street & number 1017 Olive Street

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town St. Louis vicinity of \_\_\_ congressional district # 3 Hon. Richard Gephardt

state Missouri code 29 county St. Louis City code 510

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
		___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			___ private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: not in use

**4. Owner of Property**

name Donn H. Lipton

Lipton Realty

street & number 800 Chestnut Street

city, town St. Louis vicinity of \_\_\_ state Missouri 63101

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis City Hall

street & number Market Street and Tucker Boulevard

city, town St. Louis state Missouri 63101

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title 1. Architectural Survey of the Central Business District, St. Louis, Mo. has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes ☒ no

date October 1975, revised April 1977 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.

city, town St. Louis state Missouri 63101

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LACLEDE GAS AND LIGHT COMPANY BUILDING, OLD

Continuation sheet

Item number 6

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2. Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture

1928

state

St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club

St. Louis

Missouri 63101

3. Missouri State Survey

1980

state

Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Program

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City

Missouri 65102

Item number 9

Page 1

Savage, Charles Chauncey. "Private Street Architecture of St. Louis." M.A. thesis, Columbia University, New York, 1977.

"This is Laclede." Laclede News (September 1964): n.p.

Withey, Henry F. and Withey, Elsie Rathburn. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956.

## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Laclede Gas and Light Company Building of 1911-13 is a little-altered ten story skyscraper situated at the northeast corner of North 11th and Olive Streets in downtown St. Louis. Of reinforced concrete construction clad in Bedford stone, brown brick and cream-colored terra cotta, the structure illustrates academic design tendencies prevalent in St. Louis and other conservative American cities from the turn-of-the-century until the twenties. In designs for the utility company, St. Louis architects Mauran, Russell and Crowell borrowed from Renaissance and classical precedent to enhance the street level and the skyline in equal measure.

Contrasting colors, materials and decorative treatments establish three clearly-defined horizontal divisions across the facades, while apertures establish vertical divisions numbering five bays on Olive Street and six bays on North 11th Street. The Second Renaissance Revival provides sources for the ground level arcading, defined by corbel-topped archivolt moldings springing from quarter-pilasters, that passes behind the tall ashlar pilasters. The inner street level openings at the southern elevation originally opened into a porch in antis that added the prescribed sense of weight and massiveness to the base of the structure.<sup>1</sup> These arcuated openings were glazed, however, at an early date, perhaps to gain additional street frontage for ground level offices. For inspiration in the design of the top rails of the later window sash, the architects looked to the geometric patterns of the cast iron glazing bars filling the tympana of the corner openings rather than to the original unadorned and molded limestone rails of the remaining openings. A projecting stone cornice which once carried gas company signage culminates the Renaissance Revival treatment at street level.

Used alternately, cream-colored terra cotta panels and pilasters which once anchored thirteen gas-lit bronze sconces accentuate the doubled rhythm of the second floor openings.<sup>2</sup> The surmounting terra cotta cornice reiterates the horizontal motion of the lower cornice while announcing the vertical movement of the seven tiers of evenly fenestrated offices above. Terra cotta window surrounds and green-patinaed copper window sash highlight the openings against the brown brick finish, mollifying its severe appearance.

Two stories of attic windows enframed by cast iron spandrels and sash, retire behind a giant Ionic colonnade in cream-colored terra cotta. Although missing the original roof line balustrade, the bold terra cotta entablature, richly detailed with a fasciated architrave, a paneled frieze and assorted moldings, holds the attic's visual ascent in check.<sup>3</sup>

### FOOTNOTES

1. John Albury Bryan, Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture (St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928), p. 152.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1911-1913 **Builder/Architect** Mauran, Russell and Crowell, Architects.

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Laclede Gas and Light Company Building, 1017 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri, is architecturally significant as a largely unaltered early 20th century skyscraper, particularly noteworthy for its commanding and graceful design achieved through subtle contrasts of colors and simply-stated classical and Renaissance forms. Inasmuch as the building presents thoroughgoing testimony concerning the architectural classicism of tradition-bound cities during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the structure yields important information concerning academicism in American architecture. The powerful treatment of the building's base and attic with Renaissance-inspired and classicizing features concisely illustrates the academics' use of historically-derived features in an inventive, yet disciplined manner to achieve original designs that build upon, rather than replicate, historical precedent.

The building's local significance derives from its function as a crucial anchor at the western edge of the central business district and, on the strength of the colossal attic colonnade, its position as a landmark in the downtown skyline. Since the Old Laclede Gas and Light Company Building is confronted by sheathed historic structures at the other corners of North 11th and Olive Streets, it is one of the only reminders immediate vicinity of the time and place that was early 20th century St. Louis, a fact which greatly enhances its importance to the business district.

The Laclede Gas and Light Company, currently known as the Laclede Gas Company, received its charter as a public utility to engage in the retail distribution of natural gas and electric current from the State of Missouri on March 2, 1857. As was typical of inland utilities during the mid to late 1800's, the company was owned and controlled by eastern interests until its acquisition by local businessmen during the first decade of the 20th century. The publication before 1910 of W.C. Jenkins article, "Public Utility Methods That Win," includes plans by the new board of directors to construct a ten story office building, costing an estimated \$750,000, at the northeast corner of North 11th and Olive Streets.<sup>1</sup> The utility contracted architectural services for their headquarters to the St. Louis firm of Mauran, Russell and Crowell, a partnership of high repute.

The Laclede Gas and Light Company commission was among the earliest secured by the firm, which succeeded Mauran, Russell and Garden (1900-09) and Mauran and Russell (1909-11). John Lawrence Mauran, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Fellow and president of the American Institute of Architects and a principal designer for the firms, and Englishman Ernest J. Russell, superintendent of the firms' drafting rooms and construction sites, combined talents with Edward G. Garden and later William D. Crowell to produce commercial, residential and industrial buildings, remarkable for high quality design and detailing in a variety of historical styles. The Old Laclede Gas and Light Company Building, Stix, Baer and Fuller department store, St. Louis, the Cabanne Branch of the St. Louis Public Library and the Carnegie Library, Sedalia, Missouri, evidence the firms' skillful rendering of plans and supervision of their execution.<sup>2</sup>

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Until 1957, office space in excess of Laclede Gas and Light Company's needs was tenanted to outside firms. The utility's continued growth resulted in the relocation of the Sales Department to a nearby office building in 1964 and the relocation of the entire company to a new, thirty story tower at North 8th and Olive Streets in 1969.<sup>3</sup> Because of the long-standing association with the gas company and because the building has not taken on any new associations with recent occupants, the building retains strong ties to the St. Louis utility. Presently vacant, the structure awaits refurbishing and conversion into office condominiums.

## FOOTNOTES

1. W.C. Jenkins, "Public Utility Methods That Win," n.d. State Historical Society, Columbia, Missouri.
2. Charles Chauncey Savage, "Private Street Architecture of St. Louis," (M.A. thesis, Columbia University, New York, 1977), p. 194, 196, 200, 216; and Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956), p. 229, 399.
3. "This is Laclede," Laclede News (September 1964): n.p.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bryan, John Albury, Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture, St. Louis; St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928.

Jenkins, W.C. "Public Utility Methods That Win," N.d. State Historical Society, Columbia, Missouri.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name "Granite City, ILL-MO"

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 1 5 7 4 4 1 6 0 4 2 7 9 1 7 0  
Zone Easting Northing

B                                
Zone Easting Northing

C                              

D                              

E                              

F                              

G                              

H                              

Verbal boundary description and justification A lot in block 280 in the City of St. Louis, fronting 98'8" on the North line of Olive Street, by a depth Northwardly on the East line of Eleventh Street of 107'9" to an alley, on the South line of which said alley, said lot has a width of 101', more or less, bounded east by property formerly of Rebecca W. Sire.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Jill Johnson, Architectural Historian		
organization	Historic Preservation Program Mo. Department of Natural Resources date August 16, 1980		
street & number	P.O. Box 176	telephone	314/751-4096
city or town	Jefferson City	state	Missouri 65102

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☒ national ☐ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and	
title State Historic Preservation Officer	date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

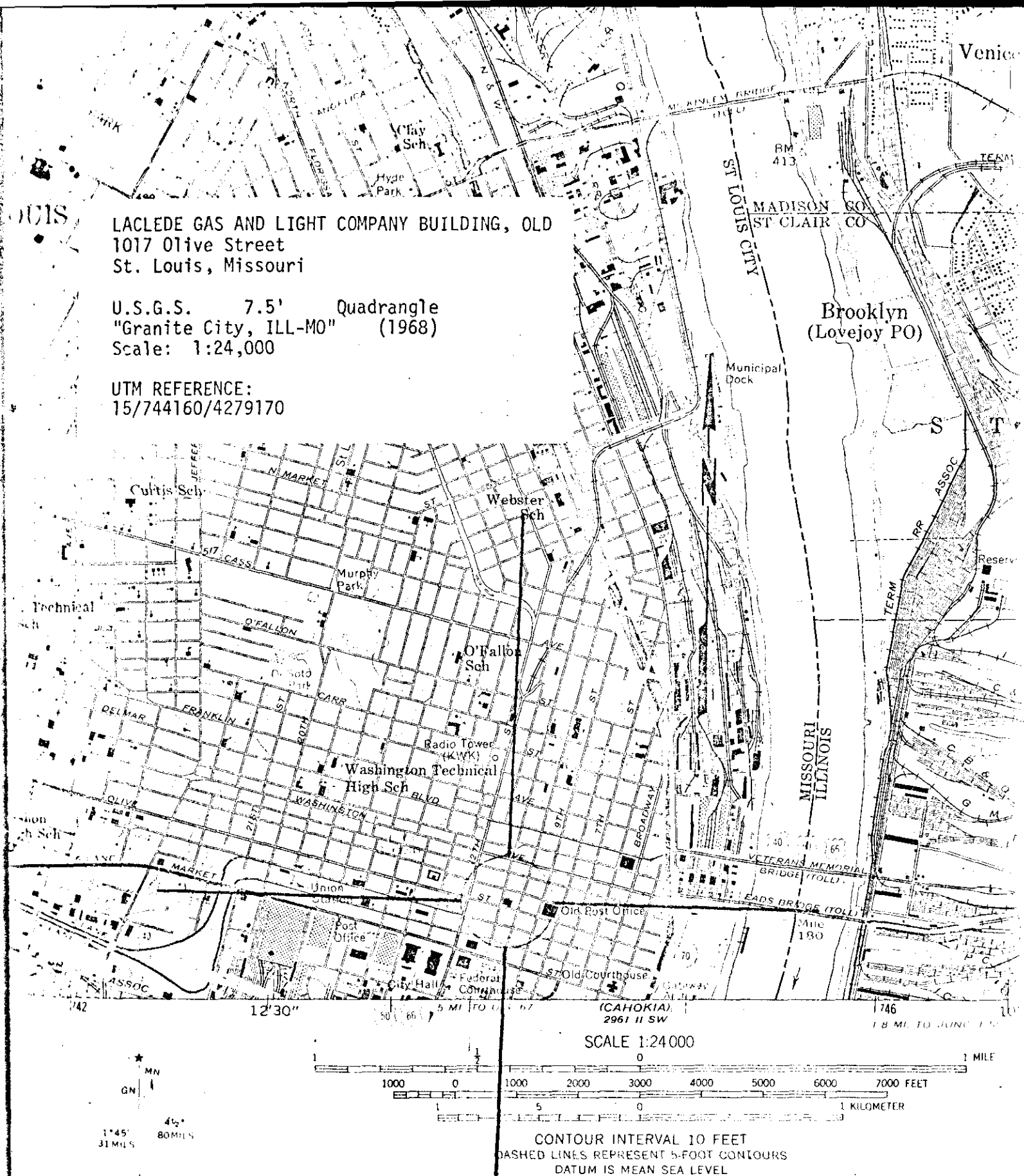
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:	date
---------	------

Chief of Registration

UTM REFERENCE:  
15/744160/4279170



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AND MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

4. ✓ 37  
LACLEDE GAS AND LIGHT COMPANY 1 of 3  
BUILDING, OLD  
1017 Olive Street  
St. Louis, Missouri

Photographer: Vivian Paul  
June 1978

Neg. Loc.: Landmarks Association of  
St. Louis, Inc., 611 Olive Street,  
Room 2187, St. Louis,  
Missouri 63101

View looking northeast.



12/3/78

LACLEDE GAS AND LIGHT COMPANY 2 of 3  
BUILDING, OLD  
1017 Olive Street  
St. Louis, Missouri

Photographer: Vivian Paul  
June 1978

Neg. Loc.: Landmarks Association of  
St. Louis, Inc., 611 Olive Street,  
Room 2187, St. Louis,  
Missouri 63101

View looking northwest.

519  
08/21/78

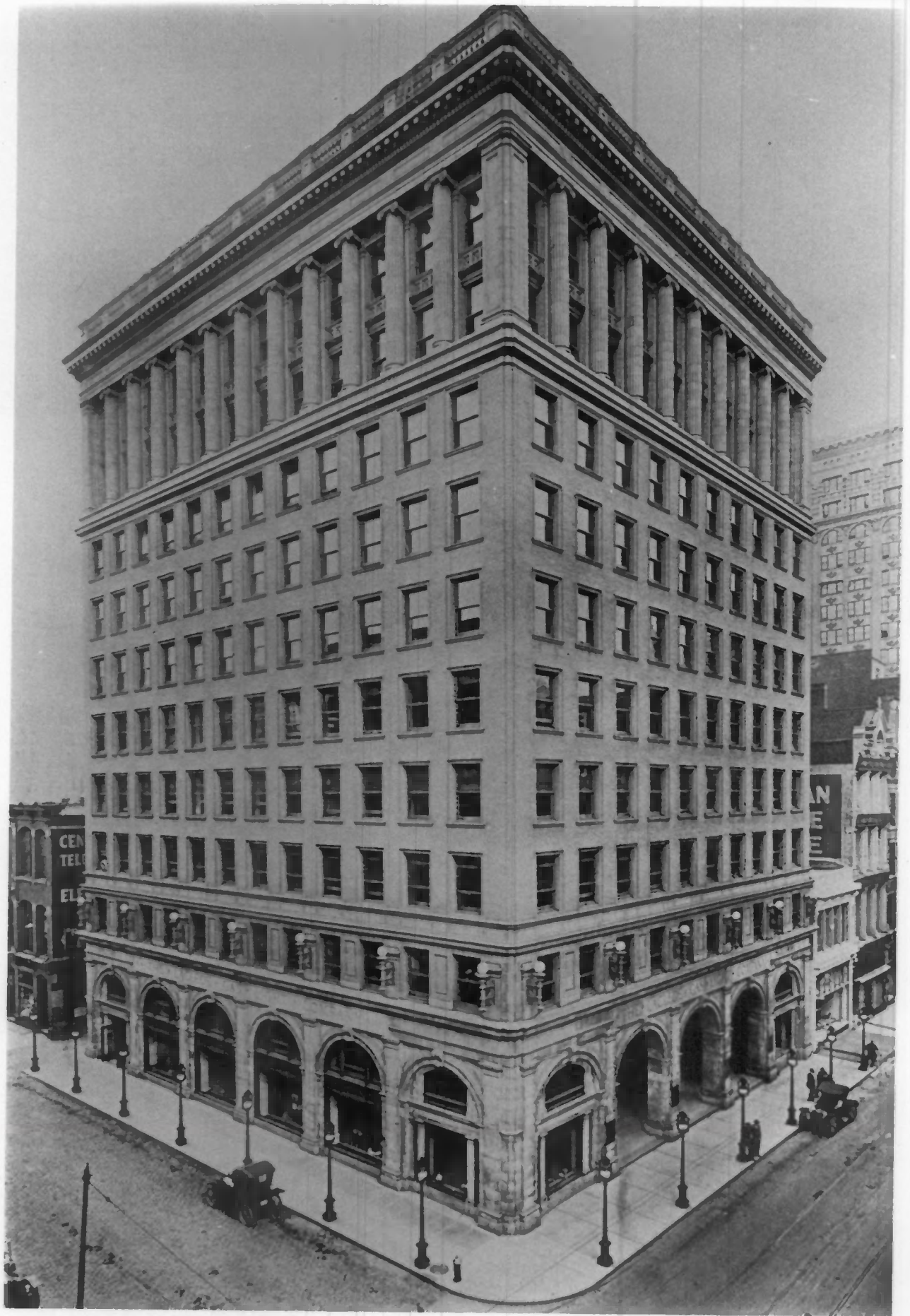


LACLEDE GAS AND LIGHT COMPANY      3 of 3  
BUILDING, OLD  
1017 Olive Street  
St. Louis, Missouri

Photographer: Unknown  
c. 1928

Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural  
Resources, P. O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Historic view pictured in John Albury Bryan's  
Missouri's Contribution to American  
Architecture.



EXTRA  
PHOTOS

